

In Memory of

Gladys Helen Cobb

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps

Died 12 February 1919 age 24.



Remembered with honour:

The Diocese of Norwich & the Great War 1914-1918 Book of Remembrance

The Women's National Memorial Screen in York Minster

Gaywood War Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Story of Gladys Helen Cobb



Gladys Helen Cobb was born 1895 to Henry and Keren Cobb. Her father was a harness maker and they lived at their harness shop in Gaywood.

We do not know when Gladys joined the QMAAC but her service number was 45491 and she was attached to the Royal Engineers (Inland Waterways Department) at the Military Port of Richborough, Sandwich in Kent. The port sent out all manner of supplies to the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front.

Gladys was working at Richborough in the early months of 1919. Although the war was over there was still a need to supply soldiers still in France as well as the occupation forces in Germany.

Records show Gladys was an Ordinary Worker, but the Gaywood Memorial records her as a Quarter Mistress (QM) – a rank in line with sergeant. She may have been an acting QM as this group photo shows Gladys wearing the white collar of a QM. Gladys is front row, 3rd from right.



Gladys died of influenza and toxic jaundice at Stonar Camp Hospital in Richborough on 12 February 1919. Her body was returned home and she was buried at King's Lynn Gaywood Cemetery.



Gladys' name appears on Gaywood War Memorial. It is interesting to note that, unlike the situation for most other women who died in service, it was added at the same time as that of the men including her brother Harry. Her brother William served and survived the war while her youngest brother Charlie was sent back from the Front as he was found to be under age.

About 600 women who died in service were issued with memorial plaques which were commonly known as Death Pennies. Gladys was one of those. Her Death Penny remains with the Cobb family.

